

**U.S. Embassy Manila
Warden Message**

July 14, 2010

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU.

Typhoon Season

On June 6, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) announced the onset of the 2010 rainy season. The rainy season, which is associated with the Southwest Monsoon, is generally expected to last until the end of September. During this time, the Philippines may experience tropical depressions, tropical storms, and typhoons. From June 2009 to October 2009, PAGASA recorded 14 of these weather events in the Philippines Area of Responsibility, eight of which made landfall.

You can check for weather updates at the following websites:

<http://www.usno.navy.mil/JTWC>,
<http://www.metocph.nmci.navy.mil>, www.typhoon2000.ph,
www.weatherunderground.com, or www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph .

In preparation for the Typhoon season, the U.S. Embassy encourages U.S. Citizens to take the following precautionary measures in order to ensure minimal disruption or damage should a major weather event occur.

- Keep an up-to-date list of local emergency phone numbers;
- Secure loose outdoor items, such as limbs, roofing material, windows (coverings), doors, patio furniture, debris (trash), etc.;
- Keep vehicle fuel, generator fuel, and water tanks at no less than 2/3 capacity;
- Check and charge radios;
- Charge cell phones;
- Protect your vital travel documents (i.e. U.S. Passport, Birth Certificate, picture ID's, etc.) from potential water damage by placing them in a waterproof container;
- Gather flashlights, tools, and first aid supplies;
- Procure fresh batteries, hand-held radios (battery or crank operated), candles, matches, water, non-perishable food, pet supplies, and ice;
- Assure an adequate supply of prescription medications
- Stay home and let your family & office know how you plan to weather the storm;
- After the storm has passed, contact your family in the United States to let them know you are okay.

In general, use prudent judgment to plan ahead for any surprises or hardships. Additional information is available at www.ready.gov, www.americanredcross.org, www.redcross.org.ph or www.ndcc.gov.ph for Emergency Preparedness Planning. Also, see our “[Hurricane/Typhoon Season](#)” webpage and the “[Natural Disasters](#)” page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs website.

If the Embassy public phone number, 301-2000, is not operational, U.S. Citizens who require emergency assistance may contact the American Citizens Services section through acsinfomanila@state.gov, the [U.S. Embassy Facebook page](#), or by calling the United States at the following numbers: 202-501-4444 (if calling from outside the United States or Canada) or 1-888-407-4747 (if calling from within the United States or Canada).

It is possible that the Embassy may close due to bad weather. If a typhoon occurs, visa applicants with appointments should first verify if the Embassy is open for business before proceeding to the Embassy. If the Embassy is closed, applicants will be contacted directly to reschedule their appointments on a priority basis. Applicants may also contact the Embassy call center at 1-909-101-7878, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Details are also available at <https://philippines.us-visaservices.com/Forms/default.aspx>. In the event of an Embassy closure, those people with appointments at the Veterans Clinic or Veterans Affairs Regional Office should be advised that Veterans' Affairs personnel will call all those with appointments and reschedule on a priority basis. Contact information for Veterans Affairs is as follows: Clinic: 011-63-2-833-4566 to 69, toll free number outside of Manila: 180018888782. Regional Office: 011-63-2-528-2500, toll free number outside of Manila: 180018885252.

For the latest safety/security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Alerts, Travel Warnings, and health-information resources can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada or, for callers in other areas by calling a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).